Export of Publications

*171. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the value of export of books, newspapers and magazines etc. during the year 1992-93 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : During the year 1992-93, the value of export of books, newspapers and magazines was Rs. 50 crore.

Restrictions on Indian Goods for Export to USA

*172. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO :
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the restrictions which exist on Indian goods for export to USA ;

(b) whether in view of the Dunkel proposals being accepted, these restrictions will be relaxed;

(c) what steps are being taken to remove these restrictions ; and

(d) the reaction of the US Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) The USA maintains quantitative restrictions under the Multi Fibre Arrangement (MFA) on imports of textiles and clothing from a number of countries including India. World trade in textiles has so far been governed by the Multi Fibre Arrangement (MFA). This arrangement was a derogation from GATT and enabled importing countries to impose country-wise quota restrictions. The Agreement on Textiles and Clothing in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round envisages a phase out of the MFA and the integration of the textiles sector into the Multilateral trading system at the end of a ten year transition period. This is the first ever commitment by the importing countries to dismantle the arrangement. Legal security has also been built into the Agreement. The period of phase out is divided into three stages of 3 years, 4 years and 3 years. At the commencement of each stage a specified percentage of textiles and clothing items will stand integrated into the multilateral framework. Besides, in respect of restrained products, increased access is provided during the transition period by the application of growth factors till such products get integrated.

The USA has joined the consensus on the results of the Uruguay Round negotiations on 15-12-1993. Since the textiles agreement of the Uruguay Round is multilateral agreement the question of a specific response from the US does not arise.

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कोयला सम्मेलन

***173. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :
श्री अन्नत राम जायसवाल :**

क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल ही में रांची में कोयला तकनीक पर एक दो दिवसीय अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन का आयोजन किया गया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या उक्त सम्मेलन में कोई नीतिगत निर्णय भी लिया गया था;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और क्या यह भी सच है कि देश में कोयले का कुल भंडार अनुभाग से काफी कम है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसके प्रमुख कारण क्या हैं और इस समय खनन कार्यों में आ रहे गतिरोधों के बावजूद उपलब्ध कोयले के भंडार के पनर्मूल्यांकन तथा कोयले के भंडार के भंडारण की क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए सुझाव देने हेतु क्या किसी समिति का गठन किया गया है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?